

# Geelong Botanic Gardens Education Program

## Report to Friends of Geelong Botanic Garden Inc for year ending June 2014

### 1. Summary

Education is one of the key deliverables of the Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG) as a scientific institution. The GBG Education Program is an important part of **Public Programs@GBG** which is the umbrella of activities which engages people in the world of plants.

The key focus for the formal education program during the past year was:

- Continuing to deliver established programs for primary and high school students
- Delivering a school holiday program
- Developing partnerships

The City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) values and acknowledges the past and present voluntary efforts and ongoing financial contribution of \$10,000 per annum of Friends of Geelong Botanic Garden Inc (Friends) in supporting the delivery of the program.

### 2. Key Outcomes

#### 2.1 Program Administration

The initial focus (after the program was handed over to CoGG in March 2013) was to establish administrative systems. A booking diary and invoicing system, program documentation and website were established. A policy that all staff and volunteers must have a Working with Children Check to participate in program activities was established in line with industry practice. Administrative processes are reviewed and improved to enable effective delivery, evaluation and reporting on the program.

#### 2.2 Volunteer contribution

Processes to engage existing Friends volunteers in education program activities was established as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Volunteer hours 2013-14 year:

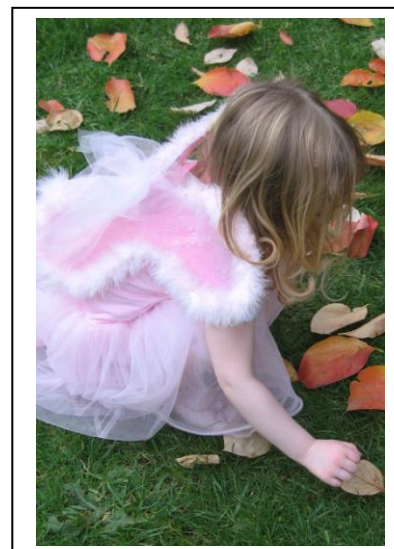
	Number of volunteers	Volunteer hours
<b>Crafty Creatures</b> school holiday program- preparation of program activities and support of staff in delivery of program	5	65.0
<b>Storytime</b> - preparation of bookcase and library books, reading to children	3	8.5
<b>Up in the Air</b> - support of staff in delivery of program	2	9.0
<b>Fairies &amp; Dragons</b> - support of staff in delivery of program	1	3.0
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>85.5</b>

#### 2.3 School Holiday Program

The School Holiday Program has been well received by the community. Hands on activities and opportunities to explore are well received.

Kids love a 'treasure hunt' style trail and this provides a free opportunity for families visiting the gardens during school holidays.

Facebook and web based information eg. Geelong Events is the most effective means of engaging this audience (and therefore paid advertising is unnecessary).



Date	Program Title	Detail	Child	Adult
2013 Winter	Crafty Creatures	Hands on craft activities and gardens trail focused on insects	177	Not counted
2013 Spring	Up in the Air	Activities about birds, bats & butterflies.	217	Not counted
2014 Summer	Hop In	Water and frogs, program developed by Deakin University Student.	34	62
2014 ongoing	StoryTime@GBG	Alfresco Library. Note numbers not monitored.	n/a	n/a
2014 Autumn	Batwatch	Evening family activity in partnership with CSIRO & Australasian Bat Society	210*	
<b>Estimated Total Children</b>			<b>538</b>	

\* total persons

## 2.4 Engaging Playgroups

We have provided an information session to Playgroup facilitators from CoGG. This generated a number of excursions to the gardens. We participated in the 'Playgroup in the Park' event and this coming year the footprint of the event has increased to include activities in the gardens.

## 2.5 Continuing to deliver established programs for primary and high school students

An outline of programs on offer can be found on the Learn@GBG section of our website.

	No of pre-schools		Lower Primary (Prep-4)		Upper Primary (Year 5-6)		Secondary		Higher Education		Total Schools	Total Students
2012	3	62	6	289	0	0	6	245	1	15	16	611
2013	2	62	13	1114	1	20	1	22	3	92	20	1310
2014	5	140	8	706	2	65	1	52	1	11	17	974

## 2.4 Developing new initiatives and partnerships

- **Deakin University Student Placement** a teaching student developed curriculum on water in the botanic gardens. New program material included the 'Hop In' school holiday program delivered January 2014. New teaching program and supporting materials for primary and lower high school focused on water have been developed.
- **National Wool Museum** living fossils program, cross promotion of school holiday programs, and knowledge sharing.
- **Storytime** developing partnership with Geelong Regional Library service resulted in significant donation of books for the alfresco library enabling the establishment of this service.
- **Family Services** department of the City of Greater Geelong supporting connections to playgroups and delivery of Children's Week activities.

## 3. Future Focus

Key focus for the 2014-15 year:

- Review of programs offered for formal curriculum and deliver professional development for local teachers on the water program
- Deliver school holiday program and participate in Children's Week events